

mother, sister, brother-in-law and a young nephew. To compound matters further, he also lost all contact with his father.

Forced to make an almost impossible choice, Naakh escaped Nazi persecution by fleeing to the Soviet Union. He was immediately sent to a Siberian concentration camp. After several years in this camp—and having witnessed countless deaths of his friends almost on a daily basis—he was given an option to stay there or join the Soviet Army to fight the Nazis. He chose to fight and was wounded shortly after. While in the hospital during his recovery, Naakh was recruited and trained to become a medical professional. He spent the rest of the war working at that hospital and helping countless wounded soldiers and civilians.

After the war, Naakh embarked upon an extensive search for his father and found him in 1948 in the City of Chernowetz. Although the city had been part of Romania, it was then part of the western Ukraine inside the Soviet Union. When the U.S.S.R. closed their borders, Naakh's hopes of emigrating were dashed. However, he was able to find a good hospital job and a place to live in Storoshinetz, one of Chernowetz's suburbs. While there, Naakh was recognized as a talented medical professional who championed efforts to provide the best quality of care for countless people. In 1952, he married his wife Klara, who was a school teacher. Two years later, his daughter Faina was born. His wife Klara became one of the most respected teachers in the region due to her strong advocacy for education and her devotion to her students.

During his time in Storoshinetz, Naakh became increasingly alarmed and appalled at the rampant anti-Semitism that existed under the oppressive Soviet regime. In 1972, due to the international movement against Soviet anti-Semitism, the possibility of immigration became real. However, that same year, Faina was accepted into medical school in Chernowetz. Naakh decided to stay so Faina could attain her medical degree. Once that was achieved, Naakh and his family applied for permission to leave the Soviet Union within a month of Faina's graduation and wedding, and, in October of 1979, left the Soviet Union for New York in the United States.

Upon their arrival in New York, Naakh's grandson Gregory was born. Naakh and Klara dedicated their lives to taking care of Gregory and making sure Faina had every opportunity to study and become a physician in America. It was a very special day for the family when Faina passed her qualifying exam for a foreign medical graduate degree in September 1980, less than a year after their arrival. With great pride, Naakh and Klara watched their daughter, now Faina Shtern, become the first Russian-born physician to be appointed by the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School in 1984, and then recognized as a leader in the field of Radiology, when she became Chief of the Diagnostic Imaging Research Branch of the National Cancer Institute in 1990.

A year later, in 1985, Naakh and Klara followed Faina to Boston, where they had helped countless members of the Russian Jewish Community (RJC) in Brighton and Allston and championed their causes. Several years later, Naakh was elected a leader of the RJC grass roots movement. He has been serving in that capacity ever since and has received wide

recognition for his leadership and accomplishments. A number of elected officials, including former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and the current Governor Charlie Baker; members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, members of the Massachusetts State Legislature, former Boston mayor Thomas Menino, and the current mayor of Boston, the Honorable Marty Walsh; and the Boston City Council, have all risen to acknowledge Naakh for his service to the Commonwealth and the Russian Jewish Community.

With all this in mind, I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank Naakh Vysoky for his many contributions and wish him a very happy birthday and pray that he has many more to come.

IN HONOR OF FATHER PAUL
WYNANTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my respect and admiration for Father Paul Wynants. Father Wynants has been a true spiritual leader, providing guidance and comfort to thousands since first being ordained 64 years ago.

Father Paul G. Wynants was born on August 2, 1925, in Heverlee, Belgium. He entered the Missionhurst Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1944 and was ordained on July 29, 1951. He departed for his mission assignments in the United States in 1953.

Father Wynants served as assistant pastor at Christ the King Church in Norfolk from 1954–55; professor at Maryhill Seminary in Pinesville, LA., from 1955–58; assistant pastor at St. Dominic Parish in Columbus, Ohio, from 1958–59; and assistant pastor at St. Patrick Church in Detroit, Mich., from 1959–62. In 1964, Father Wynants was appointed spiritual director and rector for the Missionhurst Seminary in Washington, DC.

In 1975, he was assigned as director of vocations for the U.S. Province. Residing at Missionhurst in Arlington, he also served as rector there until 1981. Under his guidance, Missionhurst evolved into the Missionhurst Mission Center, where he served as coordinator until 1982.

Father Wynants served as the Catholic chaplain at Fairfax Hospital from 1982–2005, and priest at St. Ambrose Church in Annandale, VA. During those years, Father Wynants was always available to provide for the spiritual needs of the ill and their families. Regardless of the time of day, or the treacherous weather, he would unfailingly travel to the hospital and provide comfort and support to those in grief.

On September 12, 1991, Father Wynants proudly served as Chaplain for a day in the United States Senate. Senator Max Baucus sponsored him for this honor, and he was introduced by Senator Robert Byrd. Father Wynants never forgot this honor. Sometime later, a staff member in Senator Baucus' office became seriously ill and was recuperating at Fairfax Hospital when Father Wynants walked into her room announcing that the DCCC had sent him to check in on her. This brightened

her day and she would talk about his act of kindness for long afterwards.

In 1992, Father Wynants took up residence at Mount Tabor Community in Vienna, a house of prayer and a Christian community established in 1975 by Missionhurst Father Arthur Verstraete. With the help of Father Wynants, Mount Tabor has continued to grow with an ever-increasing number of members, retreatants, and activities.

Sadly, Father Wynants is gravely ill. Family members have travelled to the United States from Belgium to be with him during this time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in a prayer for Father Wynants and his family, and in celebration of his life of dedication to his Church, his faith, his family, and our community.

HONORING KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Kearney High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Bulldogs relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with their fourth state football title in school history.

The Kearney Bulldogs defeated Webb City 17–14 in the Missouri Class Four Championship. Junior Ethan Luft managed to recover a last second fumble on the goal line to secure the victory. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Kearney High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri Class Four state champions.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF LINDA STONE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Linda Stone—a longtime anti-hunger advocate in Seattle—on her retirement.

For the last 30 years, Linda has been a prominent leader in the fight to end hunger. She is known throughout the region for her tenure as the Food Policy Director for the Children's Alliance, a public-policy organization that advocates for the needs of children. Her history also includes service as the Director of the Governor's Task Force on Hunger and as the founder of the Washington Food Policy Action Center.

Linda served as the driving force behind a strategic plan to end childhood hunger in